

Wakefield Cuts Baseball Squad

Wakefield basketball coach Mort Irwin is making his first big cut this afternoon after one full week of practice.

Approximately twenty boys are slated to get the axe but the first to go are those who have failed to attend drills regularly since the opening session.

Irwin isn't planning on the cut to be a personal affair, he'll merely post a list of the boys still with the ball club and those who fail to find their names on the roster will know that they haven't made the team.

The cut list is believed to be confined to boys who have not played ball for Wakefield before and have displayed obvious lack of ability or have shown little interest. Before drawing up the listing of boys who still have a chance Coach Irwin called a full meeting of the aspirants and thanked the mall for coming out and trying to represent their school. Irwin said that he would have liked to keep all of his boys but, as always, some will have to go.

Irwin held long morning and evening sessions Saturday while taking a long look at the youngsters before working on his big slash over the weekend.

All the Warriors' veterans were called out in the morning drills where rainy weather forced the lads to hold their work-out indoors on the gym floor.

Irwin drove the boys through an infield practice while the pitchers worked on mound position. The hurlers practiced their form for situations such as runners on first and second, bunt defense and other problems, a pitcher faces frequently.

Wakefield devoted a full forty-five minutes to bunting, with everyone taking a turn at the bat.

Catchers went through a rugged session of throwing to second base in addition to receiving for the various pitchers and bunting practice. As far as his chuckers are concerned, Mort wants only fast balling, curves and the change of pace emphasized. If his lads can master these fundamentals and

have control as well, Irwin's mound problems will be confined to worrying about sore arms.

In the afternoon drills, all boys who have not played ball for Irwin before came out in addition to the battery, which received a full dose of morning and afternoon workouts.

Wakefield's new performers also went to work on fundamentals such as bunting and fielding ground balls, but Irwin insisted that every prospect try his hand at hurling whether or not he intended to become a pitcher.

Out of this mound session a young sophomore, John Watkins, displayed an impressive fast ball that might give him an opportunity to stick with the club. At first glance, Watkins appeared to be a lad that could steam a ball over the plate with as much speed as veteran Warriors, and Coach Irwin will probably take a good look at the boy to see if his stuff is real.

After lopping off the first group, Coach Irwin expects to have about 34 aspirants remaining, not counting lads who played basketball and were forced by Mort to take at least a week off to rest. The hoopsters should begin coming in today, since the compulsory vacation is only a week, but since Irwin encouraged the lads to take as long as two weeks, the boys will probably be stringing in for the next few days.

When everyone from off the basketball court gets out on the diamond, Mort will have nearly fifty candidates from which to select his squad. For the past week the Warriors have not been emphasizing position at all, but this week Irwin will probably be thinking in terms of who fits where.

Future cutting is expected to be more on an individual basis, with different lads being plucked from the diamond at infrequent intervals.

March 7, 1955